



*N. Chavez A3400  
Lakewood, Co*

**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Desert Southwest Customer Service Region  
P.O. Box 6457  
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457

JUL 28 2000

Mr. Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma  
Cultural Preservation Office  
The Hopi Tribe  
P.O. Box 123  
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 85039

Dear Mr. Kuwanwisiwma:


Thank you for your letter of June 29, 2000, concerning the Blythe Energy Project. Western Area Power Administration (Western) is the lead federal agency for the project working in conjunction with the California Energy Commission staff (Commission). Western is considering the environmental impacts associated with the project because Wisvest Corporation has approached Western with an application for interconnection of the power from the plant to Western's electrical system. The Commission has the responsibility for project siting within the State of California.

We appreciate your information concerning the project area, and specifically the concerns you expressed for the potential impacts from pumping cooling water at a rate of 2,200 gallons per minute. Western and the Commission are reviewing the information that the applicant has supplied on water use for the plant. It would appear from that information that the project will tap a very small fraction of Colorado River water, but the aquifer apparently lies outside the normal accounting surface used by the Bureau of Reclamation to measure and account for river water. If you would like more information on this issue, or on any other issues as the environmental review proceeds, feel free to contact any of the persons listed below. In addition, information on the project can be found at the Commission's web site:  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe/index.html>.

Western also appreciates your concern that we continue to work with the Tribes directly impacted by this project. We have sent letters to all interested Tribes and have begun following up the letters with phone calls. Any issues of concern to the Tribes will be addressed in our review.

Again, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact myself at (602) 352-2592, Mr. Nicholas Chevance, Environmental Project Manager (720) 962-7254, or Ms. Mary Barger (720) 962-7253, Western's Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. Lance Shaw, Project Manager for the Commission, can be contacted at (916) 653-1227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Holt  
Environmental Manager

cc:

Mr. Lance Shaw, Project Manager  
California Energy Commission  
Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 15  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504